Gallagher
Eng 2 Honors
Odyssey research essay

Assignment: Write a 3-5 page essay that critically examines some element of the Odyssey. You may examine the revelation of a theme—an idea, a truth or insight about human nature—or analyze a character or characters, a setting, a conflict, a motif, a pattern of imagery or of epic style, and interpret an effect of that element.

Choose and research a topic. Hopefully, you’ll be able to pick something that interests you. You may for example, want to research the use of disguises/transformations in the Odyssey, the formation and maintenance of identity (that’s a broad and very complicated topic), or omens and prophecy, the role of women (that’s another very general one that could and should be defined and focused), the “brains vs. brawn” conflicts, the importance of reputation or glory, the role of storytelling, etc etc.
Your essay must be analytical. Do not merely re-tell plot. You must make use of, either with direct quotes or paraphrasing, at least TWO critical sources, plus the Robert Fagles translation of the Odyssey. On your works cited page, you will have at least three entries, two critical sources and the Fagles translation.

Use MLA 8 format for all formatting and citations.

Advance a clear, specific, arguable thesis. By the end of your first paragraph, your reader should know your topic, know your thesis (what point you will prove) and how your essay will be organized, and be interested!

The body of your essay will logically adhere to the structure announced in your introductory paragraph. Your essay will have unity; you will stick to your point. Your essay will have support; you will use carefully chosen, significant quotes from the Odyssey and from your research to support your assertions. Be sure that your essay does not merely report details of the story, but interprets details. Your essay will have coherence; you will organize and connect your support with logical, meaningful transitions. Your essay will demonstrate style and sentence skills; you will use correct grammar, usage, and mechanics, and a mature vocabulary. Read your essay out loud - hear it as your readers will hear it-and listen carefully and critically;

The best papers will advance an analytic explanation or interpretation, reflect a thorough knowledge of the poem and sensible incorporation of research, and show careful proofreading for unity, organization and support, coherence, and sentence skills/format.

Thesis –analytic, focused, relevant /20
Body Content-critical, unified, supported, coherent /20
Use of text and research-analytic, relevant, logical incorporation /20
G.U.M./Style-correct, clear, consistent /20
MLA /10
Turnitin/punctuality/length /10